

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088342
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:HEMEINHEIT:EVC
APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT B. OAKLEY
EA/RA-PMU:MEILAND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088342

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, TH, US

SUBJECT:VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT - POSSIBLE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES

REF: A) BANGKOK 9561; B) STATE 76094

1. DEPT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S FULL REPLY ON POSSIBLE
SECURITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES VP MIGHT MAKE IN BANGKOK.
WE HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAI WERE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT
DEVELOPING AN AIRBORNE ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY THAN THEY
APPARENTLY ARE. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE ASSUME THAT THE VP
NEED NOT RAISE THE AIRBORNE ANTI-ARMOR ISSUE (INCLUDING THE
A-10) AND THAT THE THAI WILL NOT RAISE IT EITHER. PLEASE
CONFIRM.

2. WITH REGARD TO LAND-BASED ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY, THERE
SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH THE REQUESTED 106 MM RECOILLESS
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RIFLES. DOD/DSAA HAS AUTHORIZED THE ARMY TO DRAW UP THE
LOA. UNLESS EMB HAS FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THAI ANTI-ARMOR
CONCERNS, WE BELIEVE THE 106 MM GUN AGREEMENT DOES NOT
REALLY WARRANT ATTENTION AS A VP-THAI POLICY CONCERN.
WE MIGHT, HOWEVER, MENTION IT AS A RECENT (OR PENDING --
DEPENDING ON LOA DATE) INDICATION OF OUR CONTINUING ROLE
IN MEETING PRIORITY ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF THE THAI FORCES.

3. RICHARD CHIPMAN OF FAIRCHILD CALLED ON DEPT APRIL 5
AND INFORMED US THAT HE WOULD BE IN BANGKOK IN MID-APRIL
TO DISCUSS THE A-10 WITH RTG OFFICIALS. CHIPMAN HOPES
TO PERSUADE THE THAI TO RAISE THE A-10 ISSUE WITH THE
VP WHEN HE VISITS BANGKOK. ANY SIGNS OF RENEWED OR
SLACKENED THAI INTEREST IN THE A-10 OR OTHER AIRBORNE
ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY AS A RESULT OF CHIPMAN'S VISIT
SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE REPORTED PROMPTLY. VANCE

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